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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

The Problem with Averages in Understanding Guns, Violence, and Crime

When I tell my more liberal friends I am studying "gun culture," they frequently hear me saying "gun violence," since their primary association with guns is with violence. Although my interest in guns is actually in the culture that surrounds it rather than violence, I still spend a few days on "gun violence" — firearm-related injury and death — in my Sociology of Guns seminar every semester.

An article we are reading this week — "Firearm Injuries in the United States," published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shows that the firearm homicide rate in the United States was 3.66 per 100,000 from 2010-2012. (Source: "Firearm Injuries in the United States," Preventive Medicine, 2015, p. 10)

Taking an aggregate statistic like this, we often hear about how much higher the homicide rate is in the U.S. than other "similar" countries.

But such population averages gloss over important differences between subpopulations within the U.S. For example, according to "Firearms Injuries in the United States," the firearm homicide rate for those 25-34 is more than four times greater than the rate for those 55-64 (8.01 vs. 1.47). The rate for men is 6.13 and for women 1.15. The rate for non-Hispanic Blacks is 14.78 compared to 0.99 for non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islanders.

The second reading for my class this week is by Andrew Papachristos (with Christopher Wildeman), whose work I like. His use of social networks to analyze the concentration of firearms injury and death provides some dramatic and

easily understood statistics. For example, in one study he found 85% of all firearms injuries in one Boston community took place within one social network of just 5% of the population. (Papachristos: Co-Offending network of high-risk individuals in a Boston community, 2008)

As the CDC researchers observe, "firearm violence is not evenly distributed by geography or among the populations living in these communities. Rather it is highly concentrated in specific 'hot spot' locations and often occurs within high-risk social networks" (p. 11).

This extreme concentration of firearms violence in the U.S. was discovered by the gun violence newsadvocacy outlet The Trace last summer. Recently *The Guardian* newspaper wrote: "While President Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions have emphasized the national murder rate when discussing their strategies for tackling violent crime, The Trace has argued that drilling down to the neighborhood level is the best way to understand gun violence."

The Trace continues, "St. Louis, as a prime example, had the highest homicide rate per capita in the United States over the last three years. The homicide rates in several neighborhoods in the city are so high that they exceeded those in Honduras, the deadliest country in the world. In other neighborhoods, especially those that are majority white, the risk is negligible."

Or, as I wrote on April 10, 2015: The problem with averages is that there is no "United States of America" when it comes to guns, violence, and crime, but many Americas. Some of these Americas —

like my neighborhood in Winston-Salem — are more like our first world counterparts, and some of them are more like the third world politically, economically, and socially.

As *The Guardian* points out, in 2015, there were more than 13,000 gun homicides throughout the US, but half of those deaths were in just 127 cities, which contain almost a quarter of the population. (guardian.com/2017/jan/09)
-- Posted March 30, 2017 by davidyamane

Social Networks Help Explain Gun Violence

By Andrew V. Papachristos

Gun violence is highly concentrated among particular segments of the population and in particular places.

Young, minority males between the ages of 18-24 are the most likely victims of gun homicide, with rates of gun homicide more than fifty times higher than the overall U.S. average and ten times higher than white men in the same age range. Gun homicide also concentrates in small geographic areas within major U.S. cities, especially socially and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Observe the Co-Offending network of high-risk individuals in a Boston community, 2008. Each of the nodes represents a unique individual (N = 763). Each of the ties represents an observation of the individuals engaging in criminal behavior. Red nodes represent the victims of fatal or non-fatal gunshot injuries, and these are clustered within the network.

Research by the author and colleagues has recently uncovered that the gun violence is also severely concentrated within social networks. In

particular, gun violence tends to concentrate within small social networks of individuals in high-crime communities and populations.

For example, in a recent study of one Boston, MA community, Papachristos et al. (2012) found that 85% of all fatal and non-fatal gunshot injuries occurred in a social network of N = 763 individuals, that is, in less than 6% of the community's population.

Likewise, in a study of one high-crime Chicago community, Papachristos and Wildeman (2014) found that 41% of all gun homicides occurred in a single network containing less than 4% of the community's population.

Such concentration of gun violence in social networks has important implications for understanding America's gun violence epidemic, and for doing something about it.
-- <http://yins.yale.edu>

Accidental Gun Deaths Plummeted in 2015

By Onan Coca

Great news on the accidental injury/death front! The National Safety Council's 2017 Edition of their *Injury Facts* report found that accidental gun deaths had dropped to their lowest numbers since records started being kept in 1903!

The *National Shooting Sports Foundation* (NSSF) published figures from the report, showing that "fatal firearms accidents dropped 17 percent from 2014 to 2015 to 489." Moreover, the figure of 489 accidental firearm deaths is so low, relatively speaking, that it represents "about three-tenths of 1 percent of the 146,571 total accidental deaths from all other listed causes."

And while accidental gun deaths fell 17 percent from 2014 to 2015, the total number of accidental deaths for all other listed causes rose 8 percent. NSSF observed, "It should be noted that the decrease, which was the largest percentage decline of any category, came in a year that saw record firearms sales to many millions of Americans."

The fact that accidental gun deaths has fallen to its lowest level since 1903 is amazing in and of itself, but consider a few other facts. In 1903 the American population was just north of 80 million people, in 2017 there are more than 326 Million Americans. Not only that, Americans today own somewhere between 300 million and 600 million guns! There are more guns in America than ever before, and yet

crime is at all time low-levels and now accidental gun deaths are too.

-- *constitution.com* March 21, 2017

US Army set for new lightweight combat helmet

The U.S. Army is planning to deploy a combat helmet that is 22 percent lighter than the current helmet, while providing the same amount of protection.

The helmet uses ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene, which is a lighter material than Kevlar. In addition, the Army says that the new helmet can stop rounds from a 9mm handgun as well as shell fragments.

A contract for up to \$98 million to develop the helmets was awarded to Revision Military, located in Vermont.

While the helmet's weight depends upon its size, the Army said a large helmet will weigh under 2.5 pounds.

The helmet is part of an Army initiative to modernize its equipment and lighten the loads for soldiers and vehicles. One product, slated to be fielded in 2020, will involve an integrated head protection system consisting of a helmet, visor, mandible for the lower jaw and a "ballistic applique" that is attached over the helmet. -- *foxnews.com* March 28, 2017

Ed.: Though lightweight equipment is good, you can bet that the infantryman's overall load won't go down. He'll hump the same weight, or more, albeit the individual components weigh less than their predecessors. Yeah, we're getting cynical here.

4 deer-hunting tips you should know before the season start

By Tony Hansen

This fall, I've got a darned good change of drawing a coveted archery tag for Iowa's whitetail season.

I live in Michigan and one of the greatest challenges of a DIY out-of-state hunt is time management. Nothing can suck the time out of a hunt more quickly than having to scout for new stand locations after your first option (or two or three) is spoiled by hunting pressure.

The solution? Scout now. Here are four things I look for when spring scouting for new ground that I won't hunt until fall.

1. TERRAIN CONCENTRATIONS

I look for concentrations of deer tracks that relate to some sort of terrain feature.

In Iowa, those take one of three forms: ditch or creek crossings,

the head of ditches/ravines, and fence crossings.

I'm looking for places where deer cross the width of the ditch especially where the head of the ditch begins. There will almost always be a solid deer trail found there.

But my favorite public-land locations are fence crossings because there are fewer of them, and they're often overlooked by other hunters.

Deer will cross a ditch at the same spot all year long. The same goes for creek crossing and fence crossings.

2. ADMIRE RUBS AND SCRAPES, BUT DON'T BANK ON THEM

Rubs and scrapes won't have any bearing on where I hunt this fall unless located near an area of concentrated travel.

3. SHEDS TELL YOU A BUCK WAS THERE — AND NOT MUCH ELSE

Shed antlers are proof positive that the buck survived the recent hunting season and should be back in the fall.

Most antlers are shed in January and February but hunting pressure can put bucks in areas that aren't their normal October/November hangouts. So when I find a shed antler, I don't necessarily anticipate hunting that same buck there because he may not be there until hunting pressure increases.

4. TREE PICKING

The entire time I'm scouting, I'm constantly using a phone app to track my location on an aerial map and noting areas of concentrated tracks, rubs, scrapes and — most importantly — stand sites.

When I show up to hunt this fall, I'll have more than a dozen locations marked, including the exact tree I want to place my stand in.

Iowa has plenty of hardwoods dominated by oaks. But they seem to always lean just enough to make hanging a stand a pain. The straightest trees, of course, are often locust with its trunk covered in needle-like thorns.

In spring the woods look as they will in November because the spring foliage hasn't started to pop, making tree selection even more productive. Tree locations are saved by dropping a pin on my phone's mapping app.

I may not kill a giant Iowa whitetail next fall. But I do know this: When the time comes to hunt, I'll be in good shape to make the most of every hour I have.

-- *Outdoor Life* March 29, 2017

Antifa Protestors Face Felony Charges for Attacking Trump Supporters

Yesterday, several brawls broke out in Huntington Beach, CA after Antifa thugs physically assaulted Trump supporters at a pro-Trump rally. Several were detained and 4 are facing felony charges.

Trump supporters were punched and pepper sprayed. It's about time these violent fascists are arrested and charged!

Jennifer Sterling is one of the event organizers and she was pepper sprayed by a violent leftist even after she called for a peaceful march. Yes, these vile leftists attacked a peaceful woman.

A 64 year old man was also interviewed and said he was holding an American flag when a fascist thug punched him in the face for no reason.

This is the left, folks. I hope the judge throws the book at them!

-- Christina Laila gatewaypundit.com
March 27, 2017

Antifa: short for (militant) anti-fascists. Middle-class champagne socialist/communist/anarchist white boys who don't like nationalists or fascists. They consider themselves to be rebelling against the establishment, whilst upholding all of its ultra-politically correct views.

Antifa only dislike racism when its carried out by whites, and do not have the bottle to stand up against anti-white racism; leading to many people on the right to refer to them as 'traitors'. I'd rather just call them morons. -- urbandictionary.com

Norway's Doomsday vault will now store and protect the world's data

By Nicole Kobie

Doomsday may be closer than ever, but thanks to the Arctic World Archive, at least your data could survive the apocalypse.

Norway is already the home to the Global Seed Vault, a frozen ark for 1.5 million seeds to avoid their extinction, and now the Arctic World Archive aims to do the same for your data — in the same disused mine in the same mountain on the island of Svalbard, famous for its polar bear population.

Run by a small Norwegian archiving company called Piql, the archive will store key documents, books and other files on photosensitive film held in protective boxes, a technique Piql says it's tested to

survive for at least 500 years and believes will last for 1,000.

That longevity is helped by the storage location. First, the film will be stored in an abandoned mine with a constant temperature below zero degrees Celsius, and deep enough to avoid damage from nuclear or EMP weapons. Second, Svalbard is considered to be essentially a demilitarised zone, with a treaty signed by 42 countries banning military and their equipment from the island. Third, the entire archive is stored offline, with access only provided when needed.

The data is unalterable — meaning the backup can't be changed, handy for keeping facts from disappearing down the memory hole. "Your data is securely preserved on a true WORM (write once, read many) medium, making it impossible to manipulate or delete your valuable data," the company explained.

The data is digitised and encoded on the film, with instructions on how to read the files included. "For disaster recovery, all you need is a light source and some sort of digital camera and computer," the company says on its website, though it also offers a system for saving data in human-readable text or images, for "additional security".

So far, three countries have started storing data in the mine, including Norway, Mexico and Brazil.

-- wired.com.uk 3 April 2017

Police Hope to Deploy Military Gear Banned Under Obama

By Zusha Elinson and Beth Reinhard,

Police groups helping to shape President Donald Trump's law-and-order agenda have their eyes on big prizes: military equipment banned by the previous administration and tougher laws on violence against officers.

Police unions expect the Trump administration to rescind former President Barack Obama's 2015 executive order that banned local police from acquiring tank-like armored vehicles, grenade launchers and other equipment from the federal government. Last year, Mr. Trump said he would rescind the Obama order.

"We're going to remind him of that promise and ask him to deliver," said Chuck Canterbury, national president of the Fraternal Order of Police, the nation's largest police union, with more than 333,000 members, according to its website.

In the Obama era, law-enforcement unions chafed over

criticism they felt was overly broad and disparaging following several police shootings of unarmed minorities, some of which triggered large community protests. Some felt Mr. Obama wasn't supportive enough after police were killed in targeted shootings, and was partly to blame for inflaming tensions between police and minority communities.

The administration's approach is unnerving civil-rights advocates and even some police chiefs. They say more aggressive law enforcement won't necessarily improve public safety and could worsen tensions with minority communities. While homicides rose in most big American cities in 2016 (with notable exceptions including New York), they note that overall crime rates are at historic lows.

As of last summer, police departments had returned 126 tracked armored vehicles, which look like tanks without guns, 138 grenade launchers and 1,623 bayonets to the federal government.

- Wall Street Journal 31 March 2017

Republicans Move to Strengthen Protections for Interstate Travel by Gun Owners

By Stephen Gutowski

Senator Orrin Hatch (R., Utah)

introduced a bill on March 14 that would institute new protections for gun owners who travel across state lines with their firearms.

The Lawful Interstate Transportation of Firearms Act, also introduced by Rep. Morgan Griffith (R., Va.) to the House in January, would expand and clarify the interstate firearm transportation rules instituted under the Firearms Owners' Protection Act of 1986. Under that law, Americans are allowed to transport firearms from one state where they can legally possess them to another so long as certain requirements are met, such as the firearms being unloaded and locked in a container not easily accessible to passengers.

The new bill would expand those protections to include stops along the interstate trip and even overnight stays. It would also require that the state pay attorneys' fees for individuals who successfully defend themselves in court under the bill. It would further allow those who are illegally detained for transporting firearms in accordance with the law to sue the jurisdiction that detained them for damages.

Gun rights advocates have complained about the FOIA for years.

In one often-cited case, Utah resident Greg Revell was thrown in jail for 10 days in 2005 after his flight was delayed causing him to miss his connecting flight and become stranded in New Jersey with his unloaded firearm. Though the charges against him were eventually dropped, police did not return his firearm until 2008. Revell took his case to the highest court, but the Supreme Court declined to hear his argument.

-- freebeacon.com March 26, 2017

House Committee Astonished Over FBI's Facial Recognition Database

By Lisa Vaas

Between civil and criminal mugshot photos, the State Department's visa and passport databases, the Defense Department's biometric database, and the drivers' license databases of 18 states, nearly half of all Americans are in a facial recognition database that the FBI can get at without warrants or without even having to prove they have reasonable suspicion that we've done anything wrong.

How did we get in there?

Illegally, that's how. That was the assessment of last week's House oversight committee hearing, when politicians and privacy campaigners scathingly took the FBI to task.

The FBI is required, by law, to first publish a privacy impact assessment before it uses facial recognition technology (FRT). For years, it did no such thing, as became clear when the FBI's Kimberly Del Greco – deputy assistant director of the bureau's Criminal Justice Information Services Division – was being grilled by the committee.

The FBI should have published the privacy impact assessment before it launched its advanced biometric database, Next Generation Identification (NGI), in 2010. That database augmented the FBI's old fingerprint database with further capabilities, including facial recognition. Yet in spite of legal requirements, the public wasn't informed about the database until 2015 – five years after its launch.

During the committee hearing, it emerged that 80% of the people in the database don't have any sort of arrest record. Yet the system's recognition algorithm inaccurately identifies them during criminal searches 15% of the time, with black women most often being misidentified.

In August, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report revealed that the FBI's face recognition database has 30m likenesses. Add in the repositories it can access with ease, including that of passport and drivers' license photos – no warrants required – and in total the FBI's Face Services unit had access to nearly 412m images, most of which are of US people and foreigners who have committed no crime, according to the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

-- technocracynews/2017/04/02

Top 3 Worst States for Gun Rights

New Jersey, New York and Hawaii are at the top of the list for states hostile to the exercise of Second Amendment rights.

New Jersey is the worst of the three. While they issue more permits to carry than Hawaii, the permits nearly all go to retired judges, police officers, and people with considerable "pull" (political connections). It is extremely difficult to obtain a New Jersey carry permit. New Jersey had about 1200 permits active in 2016. All other states issue more carry permits than that. All firearms ownership and use in New Jersey is controlled by statute. That is, everything about firearms that is not permitted, is forbidden. There are regular stories about people with innocent intentions being caught up in firearms laws that defy common sense. New Jersey is the only state that defines a tubular magazine fed .22 hunting rifle as an "assault weapon". For a while, a Daisy BB gun was considered an "assault weapon" in New Jersey. A large, subjective part of what makes New Jersey the worst, is the state structure seems quite willing to ignore their own rules, such as time limits on issuing permits. The impression is the rule of law is more the rule by local power brokers in New Jersey. New Jersey has no right to keep and bear arms provision in the state constitution.

-- Dean Weingarten, Gun Watch April 3, 2017

Georgia Gov. Signs Campus Carry into Law

By AWR Hawkins

Late Thursday, Gov. Nathan Deal (R) signed campus carry into law, making campus carry the law of the land in one-fifth of the states.

Campus carry is currently the law of the land in Colorado, Utah, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Oregon, Texas, and Idaho. Campus carry will take

effect in Kansas on July 1, 2017 and in Arkansas on September 15, 2017. The addition of Georgia makes ten campus carry states, or one-fifth of the country.

Ohio has campus carry as well, but the Ohio law contains so many opt-outs that public colleges and large universities chose to leave law-abiding students defenseless instead.

-- www.breitbartnews.com May 4, 2017

Safety Recall – MARCH 2017 Walthers CCP Pistols

Walther Arms has identified a potential condition in Walther CCP pistols that could potentially cause it to discharge if dropped whether the manual safety is engaged (on) or disengaged (off). The safety of our customers is our paramount concern so we have voluntarily initiated this recall because of the possibility of a drop-fire occurring.

Please do not load or fire your Walther CCP pistol and contact us immediately to arrange to have your pistol upgraded free of charge.

If your pistol has already been upgraded, there will be a dot milled onto the back side of the magazine opening.

The upgrade will be done at no charge to you. For free shipping, please enter your information here <http://www.waltherarms.com/ccp-information-submission/>, and complete the online form, making sure to include the serial number. After completion of the form a confirmation email will be sent including shipping information.

Please note: The serial number is located on the right side of the pistol.

Please check this website and all safety notices on a regular basis for current information about your firearms. You may also contact us by email at ccprecall@WaltherArms.com, by mail at Walther Arms, Inc., 7700 Chad Colley Boulevard, Fort Smith, AR 72916, or by phone at 1-866-503-3389.

If you are a FFL Dealer with CCP's to return for upgrade, please contact us with the list of serial numbers at ccprecall@WaltherArms.com

The current time to repair your CCP is approximately 4-6 weeks from the time we receive it.

Tom Garrett wants to void DC's strict gun laws

By Fenit Nirappil

WASHINGTON —Rep. Tom Garrett R-VA has introduced legislation that would eliminate the city's prohibition on semiautomatic guns and

high-capacity magazines, while making it easier for residents and visitors to carry concealed firearms.

The 42-page bill is the House counterpart to legislation re-introduced this year by Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

"My citizens should be able to come to their capital and protect themselves, just the way they can at home," said Garrett.

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, who leads the charge to defend local laws against Congressional intervention as the city's non-voting representative, questioned using Virginia's relaxed gun regulations as a model for the nation's capital.

Virginia's laws drew national attention this month when New York authorities busted what they called an illegal gun trafficking ring that funneled more than 200 handguns and semi-automatic assault rifles and boxes of ammunition from Virginia into NYC.

New York police charged 22 Virginia residents and one District man in a 627 count indictment in what they termed the biggest gun case in Brooklyn history. The indictment alleged that straw purchasers legally bought guns at Virginia stores; others took them to NYC where they were resold at hefty prices.

Officials said defendants were heard on wiretaps mocking Virginia's gun laws, with one saying "our laws are so little, I can give guns away."

Virginia "is major thoroughfare, beginning with the state itself, for illegal gun running into the District of Columbia. That's in small no part because of its own very soft gun laws," said Norton.

Garrett counters that the murder rate is much higher in the District of Columbia even with stricter gun laws. In 2016, there were 105 fatal shootings in DC and 26 in northern Virginia, according to a Post analysis.

Those numbers, he says, suggest Washington residents should be better armed. -- The Washington Post March 21, 2017

Closing arguments to begin in Bundy Ranch supporters trial

LAS VEGAS — Closing arguments will begin Wednesday in the trial of six men accused of taking up arms against federal agents during a standoff at a Nevada ranch exactly three years ago.

The first of three trials in the most high-profile land-use cases in modern Western history could be in the hands of a federal jury as early as Thursday.

The six men are among 17 defendants charged with conspiracy, extortion, assault and obstruction for helping rancher and states-rights advocate Cliven Bundy fend off a government roundup of his cattle. If convicted, they could spend the rest of their lives in prison.

"On the gun charges alone it is 52 years," Las Vegas defense lawyer Shawn Perez said Tuesday. "The jury doesn't know that ... If the jury knew what (the defendants') exposure was, they would be a little bit concerned. Because nothing happened. No shots were fired. Nobody was hurt."

Perez said while the six defendants are being tried together, most didn't know each other at the time of the standoff and all acted individually.

Federal prosecutors described the six men as part of an anti-government militia force who coordinated an armed assault on law-enforcement officers trying to uphold a court order to seize cattle grazing on public land.

Prosecutors called as many as 35 witnesses, including county, state and federal law-enforcement officers, who testified they feared for their lives as gunmen took positions above and around them in a dusty arroyo near Bundy's Bunkerville, Nev. ranch.

The defense countered that law-enforcement officers were the aggressors during a six-day standoff, which ended without a shot being fired on April 12, 2014.

They argued defendants were exercising their constitutional rights to peaceably assemble and to bear arms when they were confronted by hostile, militant law-enforcement officers.

Defense lawyers planned on calling several witnesses to testify that Bureau of Land Management agents escalated the potential for violence in the run-up to the standoff. Defendants previously accused law-enforcement officers of physically confronting protesters, shocking two of Bundy's sons with stun guns, wrecking ranching equipment and killing cattle.

But a ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Gloria Navarro last week undercut the defense strategy by restricting witnesses from testifying about events before the standoff.

Eric Parker, 33, of Idaho the only defendant willing to take the stand, told jurors he wasn't part of a conspiracy to prevent the roundup of Bundy's cattle but instead wanted to prevent innocent people from being shot by law-enforcement officers.

He said he joined the standoff because people's rights were being violated and he had a moral obligation to help.

Prosecutors used social-media posts by defendants before and after the standoff to show how they bragged about cowing the government.

They also showed jurors footage taken by undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation agents posing as a film crew who interviewed defendants after the standoff.

Those interviews include Arizona defendant Gregory Burleson, who said on camera he wanted federal agents to die in gunfire.

Testimony in court revealed that two years before the armed standoff, Burleson was a paid FBI informant.

Perez pointed out Burleson's statements were made months after the standoff and could be seen as self-aggrandizing.

For decades, the Bureau of Land Management repeatedly had ordered Bundy to remove his cattle from federal lands and in 2014 obtained a court order to seize his cattle as payment for more than \$1 million in unpaid grazing fees.

Bundy issued a social-media battle cry. Hundreds of supporters, including members of several militia groups, streamed to the ranch from several Western states.

During the trial, law-enforcement officers testified about conflicting orders and described a chaotic scene of overlapping jurisdictions.

Defendants in the second trial, which include Cliven, Ammon and Ryan Bundy, and two others are considered the leaders of the standoff. All are being held at a correctional facility in Nevada.

The second trial was scheduled to begin 30 days after the end of the first.

-- USA Today April 12, 2017

Leaving threatened women defenseless

By John R. Lott Jr. April 5, 2017

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

Protection orders are pieces of paper that can only do so much to keep women safe. But Virginia's Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe vetoed a bill that would allow domestic violence victims to carry a concealed handgun for 45 days without a permit. This is length of time it can take to process a permit application.

Mr. McAuliffe said it is "dangerous fiction that the victims of domestic violence will be safer by arming themselves."

My research in my book "More Guns, Less Crime" shows that murder rates decline when either more women or more men carry concealed handguns, but additionally I found a woman carrying a concealed handgun reduces the murder rate for women by about 3 to 4 times more than a man carrying a concealed handgun reduces the murder rate for men.

Between 2012 and 2016, in states that provide data by gender, the number of women with concealed handgun permits has increased twice as quickly as the number for men.

And a poll by Pew Research Center shows the percent of women who say gun ownership protects people from crime has been growing faster than for men.

Mr. McAuliffe pushed for background checks to stop people from getting guns if they are under a two-year protective order for domestic-violence offenses. But when you look at murders before and after changes in these laws, no benefit was found.

Mr. McAuliffe points out that in 2014, there were "112 family and intimate-partner related homicides." But he pads this number by counting 46 deaths that didn't involve guns. More bizarrely, the state data looks at homicides, not murders. Homicides include self-defense killings. So Mr. McAuliffe's number includes cases where a woman legitimately used a gun to defend herself from a violent partner.

Democrats claim that they are the true defenders of women. But they apparently don't trust women to protect themselves.

-- www.washingtontimes.com

Judicial Watch Files Suit Seeking ATF Records on Attempted Ammo Ban

By Stephen Gutowski April 11, 2017

The conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch filed suit in federal court on Monday seeking

communications records related to the Obama administration's attempt to ban a popular kind of AR-15 ammunition in 2015.

The suit stems from a Freedom of Information Act request the group filed with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) in March 2015. The request asked for all communications related to the agency's decision "to no longer exempt 5.56 mm. SS109 and M855 (i.e., 'green tip' AR-15) ammunition from the definition of 'armor-piercing' ammunition'.

Judicial Watch said the ATF never formally acknowledged receiving the request despite confirmation from the Postal Service that it was delivered. ATF did not produce the requested documents, nor argue it was exempted by law, nor tell the group if it ever intended to respond.

"This is yet another example of how Obama's wanton use of the 'pen and the phone' attempted to undermine the constitutional rights of all Americans, as opposed to upholding the rule of law," Tom Fitton, Judicial Watch president, said. "The Obama ATF simply ignored our request on their ammo ban."

The ATF attempted to reclassify "green tip" 5.56mm ammunition as "armor-piercing" by removing a long-standing "sporting purpose" exemption in February 2015. The rule change effectively would have banned the sale of the popular ammunition. However, strong backlash from Congress and the public led the ATF to abandon its effort to ban the ammo.

Judicial Watch described the ATF as "out-of-control" and said it hopes the Trump administration will bring change to the agency.

The court date for the suit has not been announced.

-- <http://freebeacon.com>

Gun Control Group Briefed ABC's Designated Survivor Team

By Stephen Gutowski April 13, 2017

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence said it briefed the team behind ABC's Designated Survivor starring Kiefer Sutherland.

"Our president Dan Gross spent time educating them on the issue," Brendan Kelly, a Brady Campaign spokesman, told the Washington Free Beacon.

Designated Survivor focuses on Sutherland's character Tom Kirkland who becomes president after a terrorist attack.

Though Sutherland instructs his staff to avoid hot button issues, his wife makes comments in support of gun control that create a media firestorm.

After calling gun control "one of the most divisive, hot-button topics in our nation," Sutherland lays out his views.

"I believe that the American people have every right to buy and own guns by virtue of the Second Amendment," Sutherland's character said. "I would also like to take a moment to quash the myth that somehow gun control is equal to the Federal Government coming into your home and taking your weapons away. Nobody is advocating for that. We need to be doing everything we can to stop guns from falling into the hands of prior felons, people dealing with serious mental-health issues, people on terrorist watch lists. I mean, come on. We need to be using common sense. It's as simple as that."

Brady's work to influence Designated Survivor is part of the group's larger campaign to influence television and film. The group consulted on the script of Miss Sloane as well as scripts for episodes of The Good Wife and Grey's Anatomy.

-- <http://freebeacon.com>

NJM, P.O. Box 10176, Trenton New Jersey 08650

ISSN 1523-4657

Back issues, from 1997 to date, can be found online. Just go to: <https://archive.org/> and in the Search Field, type in "New Jersey Militia Newsletter". So grab the PDFs and pass them around via email to others who have never seen the hard copies.

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